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Black hole sun has come and gone

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

"The biggest hype is that we are going to have totality really close," says Brian Mould, local astronomy expert. "Most of the time it is in the ocean. To have one so close is really cool." Totality occurs when the moon completely blocks direct light from the sun. This area covered by totality was around 185 km wide and is shooting past us at over 3600 km per hour.

Even with many, many years of having an interest in astronomy, Mould has never seen totality.

"I've never seen totality. I have friends that travel the eclipse around the world. They plan vacations years ahead to be in the right spots."

"We can see partial eclipses. It's the only time we can see the corona; a fuzzy white ring around the sun."

"The very first time you see it you experience a very primal fear of the sun disappearing," says Mould. "When it goes into totality, that means you can look at the sun." This moment only lasts one or two minutes and is not recommended for those inexperienced.

Looking at the eclipse could have caused serious damage to your cornea and retina. The last solar eclipse that passed over America, dubbed the "Great American Eclipse" occurred in 2017.

"Usually you have to go to an eclipse. To have an eclipse that comes right to you, it saves you a lot of travelling," says Mould.

"For centuries, this was the only way for astronomers to view and study the sun and our upper atmosphere," says Mould. "It's pretty darn close to being total," says Mould, referring to eclipse totality.

Just like astronomers throughout history, NASA is taking advantage of this year's eclipse. Using WB-57 high altitude research aircrafts, NASA took images of the sun, showing details of the middle and lower corona. In addition, NASA hopes the images in boat infrared and visible light will illuminate information about the dust ring surrounding the sun as well as help identify asteroids that may orbit around the sun.

In addition to studying the layers of the sun, NASA used WB-57s to study the composition of particles emitted by our sun's solar wind.

While total eclipses occur infrequently enough to study in depth, animals have been observed to alter their behavior during an eclipse. As discussed in a 2020 study titled Total Eclipse of the Zoo: Animal Behaviour during a Total Eclipse, 75 per cent of species observed at the Riverbanks Zoo in South Carolina displayed an abnormal response to the eclipse event in 2017. A majority of the animals observed such as elephants and giraffes displayed behaviors associated with their nighttime routines. Many of the animals observed showed signs of anxiety that were not observed on the days before and after the eclipse event.

Galapagos tortoises and siamang gibbons showed a novel response to the eclipse event in 2017. During the event, siamang gibbons had increased movement and had atypical vocalizations that were recorded during the eclipse event. Leading up to the eclipse event, Galapagos tortoises group together, then one pair began mating immediately before the eclipse. During the eclipse, the tortoises became highly more active, faster than any activity observed in other observation sessions. After totality, the group gazed upwards towards the sky, then their behaviour returned to normal.

From left, Minden residents Ashley and Nicolas Smith show off their eclipse glass. /Photo submitted

2024s total eclipse of our hearts

/Submitted by Oren Bowes

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Seasonal resident Brent Bowes views the eclipse in St. Catherines. /Submitted by Oren Bowes

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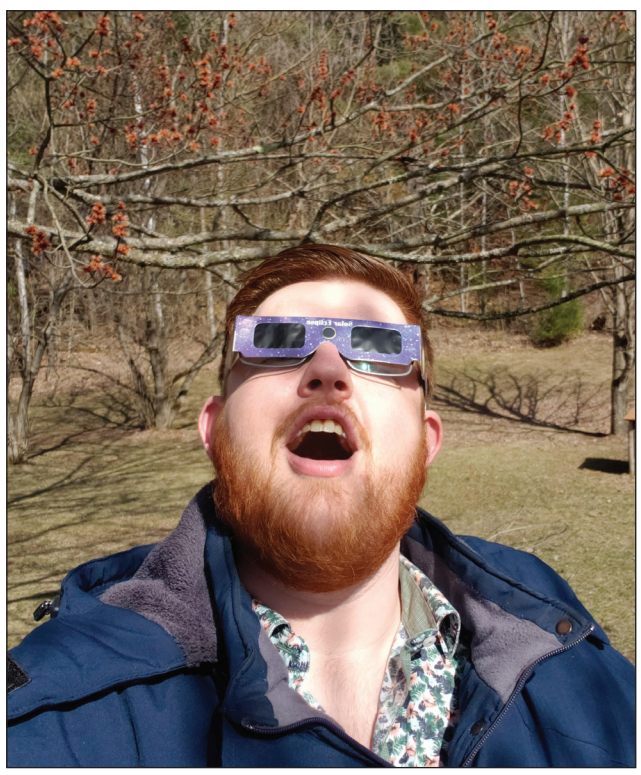

Minden resident Nicolas Smith tests his glasses on the sun for the eclipse. /Submitted by Nicolas Smith

The clouds opened briefly for a snapshot in Minden. /Submitted by Guenter Horst

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Mercantile's first chicken day goes egg-cellently

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

The Minden Mercantile & Feed Company had their first chick pick-up day on April 3, 2024. An exciting day for both new homesteaders and seasoned farmers. Despite the pouring rain and cold wind, around 1,200 chickens were picked up including 900 day-old chicks and around 220 ready-to-lay hens. The chickens come from Frey's Hatchery, a family-owned farm in St. Jacobs Ontario.

Marc and Cyndi Wilkens purchased the Minden Mercantile & Feed Co. Inc. three and a half years ago. At the beginning, the store had around $45,000 in inventory. Now, the store boasts an inventory over $160,000 through diversifying the store's stock.

"The business has grown 40 per cent since we bought it," says Wilkens.

The Wilkens have expanded their business through offerings like electric fencing supplies and hay.

"We try to make this store a one-stop shop," says Wilkens.

Wilkens says the Mercantile has customers from all over including Bracebridge, Lindsay, Gravenhurst, and Coboconk.

"We're part of the community," says Wilkens. "We like the people."

Wilkens says that he was happy that there were a lot of new faces picking up chickens.

Marc Wilkens and Andrew von Zuben are responsible for forming the Haliburton Homesteaders group. A group of like minded individuals interested in living off the land. The group meets in Kinmount at the Kinmount Baptist Church.

"I'm adding to my flock," says Micheon Hutchings, local homesteader. "I'm obsessed with animals. I have so many, from dairy cows to ducks." Hutchings picked up 20 ready-to-lay chickens including Black Sex-Link and Columbian Rock varieties.

"It's the self sufficiency, having a dependable system in place, especially in today's world," says Hutchings.

Hutchings has been a customer of the Minden Mercantile for as long as they can remember. Hutchings has no plans on naming any of the adorable chicks purchased.

"We don't name any of them for the risk of death, but we name our cows," says Hutchings with a laugh.

Hutchings says some of the biggest issues plaguing the homestead include bears, deep mud on trails, and a lack of sunlight from the forest surrounding the property.

"Bears will come and eat all my feed," says Hutchings. "Chickens will jump on him pecking, but he doesn't care. He just wanted to eat the feed and the dirt. Bears are super lazy, they'd never try to take a cow."

Anna Schelling, Lindsay resident, has been a customer of the Minden Mercantile ever since childhood.

"Day olds are the nicest chickens," says Schelling. "You can do anything you want with them, it's fantastic."

Schelling says the best part of homesteading is "knowing where your food comes from and how it is grown. If you take care of them, they provide you with good things."

Schelling says that the biggest struggle the homestead faces is access to over-the-counter medications for chickens, bird flu epidemics, and raccoons.

Above, a barred Plymouth Rock chicken waits for her new owner to pick her up.

Left, The Minden Mercantile & Feed Co. received a shipment of hundreds of chicks and ready to lay chickens on April 3rd. Varieties included Red and Black Sex-Link, Columbian Rock X, and White Leghorn. /Submitted

Minden Mercantile employees prepare to load chickens in cages for customers.

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MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• Connection and Response, an exhibit by artist Bruce Cull will be on display from April 4 – June 8 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden. Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission is by donation.. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-04-1000-Connection-and-Response-An-Exhibit-by-Bruce-Cull
• The Knitting Village provides free knitting lessons for children ages 11-14. The next class takes place on Tuesday, April 16 from 3:30-4:30 pm at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. All materials are supplied.
• In recognition of Earth Day, join the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library for a special screening of "The Magnitude of All Things" (2020) at the Cultural Centre on Thursday, April 18 at 5:00 PM. Admission is free. All ages are welcome. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-18-1700-The-Magnitude-of-All-Things-Documentary-Screening

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL, IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:
• **April 25** – Regular Council Meeting
• **May 9** – Regular Council Meeting
• **May 30** – Regular Council Meeting
• **June 13** – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage. Visit www.mindenhills.ca for updates.

JOIN US THE MONTH OF APRIL TO RECOGNIZE EARTH DAY

Here are some ways you can take action:
• Skip the car and instead walk or bike
• Waste reduction and a circular economy
• Grow plants and wildflowers that attract pollinators
• Organize a litter clean up
• Help preserve and protect our lakes and rivers
• Reduce food waste
• Plant trees

In support of Earth Day, the Township is inviting residents to participate in our Earth Day Contests! Check out our social media pages for more information.

NO DAYTIME BURNING – MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

No daytime burning from April 1st to October 31st in any year. It is considered fire season. Fire restrictions are from 7:00 AM till 7:00 PM (daytime burning). No person shall start a fire outdoors during the restricted time in fire season.

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Discussion begins into possible names for AH subdivision road

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Algonquin Highlands council wants a say in the naming of a road in a Kennisis River subdivision.

But first council will task the township's museum committee for discussion about any possible historical events or people the thoroughfare could be named for.

Sean O'Callaghan, the township's municipal planner, said during council's April 4 meeting that Greg Bishop of Greg Bishop Surveying is looking for some name ideas that can be forwarded to the county council for feedback.

Bishop's company is working to finalize conditions for a draft approval for the subdivision along Kennisis River north of Halls Lake. It will be comprised of 17 residential lots and a municipal road.

"Condition No. 3 of the draft approval requires that a street shall be named to the satisfaction of the Township of Algonquin Highlands and County of Haliburton," Bishop wrote in a letter to council.

"It is my understanding that Council has expressed some interest in being involved in the naming of this road, and to that end, I would like to respectfully request that Council choose a name they deem appropriate."

The road, once named, can then be added to the 911 emergency dispatch system for Haliburton County.

The name on the original draft approval listed the road as Hawk Valley Drive, and Bishop said he has no problem continuing with that moniker.

Otherwise, he asks that township council suggest a name for the thoroughfare before July 31.

"So that I may ensure that I have adequate time for the proposed name to be approved at the county level and the condition fulfilled well in advance of the date of lapsing for the proposed subdivision," Bishop said.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux wondered what a road-naming process would be in the absence of some kind of cultural committee.

"Or do you just want to brainstorm amongst ourselves?" she said.

"It's been referred to as the Hawk Valley Drive for quite some time and I don't have an issue with that, personally," Mayor Liz Danielsen said. "In fact I think it's probably a lot more appropriate than some of the road name that we've got now that are in place."

Councillor Sabrina Richards agreed that Hawk Lake Drive is appropriate for the area.

Dailloux suggested council hold off on the decision until the next township council meeting.

"I'll take a look at our historical mapping and some of the local family names that have been raised in all of the heritage work that's gone on just in case there is something else there," Dailloux said.

"I have a little bit of an issue naming roads after people because you can run into so many people," Danielsen said. "We have actually had a request in the past where we rename a road in memory of someone and we did not do that. It just create conflict and expectations in people."

Angie Bird, the municipality's CAO, asked if the topic could be forwarded to the museum committee in the absence of a heritage group.

"We could do that, sure," Danielsen said.

A structure that has been called to question that was put up in Algonquin Highlands at the Maple Lake boat launch. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

AH Maple Lake statement

As a result of recent events involving private individuals restricting or attempting to restrict the public's use of shoreline road allowances, the Township of Algonquin Highlands has had to revert to the unprecedented step of initiating legal action against such individuals.

Such action has included the commencement of legal proceedings in the Ontario Court of Justice seeking injunctive relief as it relates to the obstruction or occupation of portions of shoreline road allowances around Maple Lake.

Extensive research by legal professionals and Ontario Land Surveyors has confirmed the land in question is a municipal shore road allowance. All road allowances, including shoreline road allowances within the geographical jurisdiction of the Township of Algonquin Highlands are, as per Section 28(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, under the ownership and jurisdiction of the municipality except where they have been closed and conveyed in accordance with applicable legislation.

Such lands are to be made available to all members to pass over without obstruction or hinderance in order to gain access to public waterfront areas, public access areas or public travel.

It is regrettable that the Township has been forced to take the costly step of seeking the assistance of the courts in these matters. The Municipal Council for the Township of Algonquin Highlands, however, has deemed it necessary in order to ensure the public's right of free and unobstructed passage over public lands. The legal process is one that is not as expeditious as we would hope, however, it is the necessary process to be undertaken to ensure the protection of municipal land for the public.

Submitted

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Scottish country dancers break a leg

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Haliburton is littered with rich connections to the history of Scotland. The term Haliburton Highlands alone evokes connections to the Scottish Highlands. Haliburton even has an official tartan that was registered in 1963 and designed by Ms. Patricia Jenkins of the Loomcrofter's Weavers in Gagetown, New Brunswick.

"There was a group here before my time," says Christel Furniss, partial founder of the Haliburton County Scottish country dance society. "A lot of the group was aging out." Furniss and fellow dancers including Victoria Bingham joined forces to form a group to perform at the Robbie Burns Night in January of this year.

Furniss became attracted to Scottish dancing after experiencing a performance in Peterborough.

"When we saw the dancing in Peterborough, they looked like they were having a great time," says Furniss. "We took to it like a fish to water. We both fell in love with it."

"Within six weeks, we put together a very complicated dance at the Robbie," says Christel. Afterwards, Furniss and others gathered names, phone numbers, and other contact info of those interested to create a Scottish dance group. The 10 dancers that performed at Robbie Burns Night remain members of the group.

The group has quickly grown, with a wide age of members ranging from 20s to 30s upwards to 60s and 70s. Dancers have joined from all throughout the County.

"Haliburton, West Guilford, Carnarvon, it's all over" says Furniss.

"It's a really great group so far," says Furniss. "We really hope to expand it."

"It's good exercise, both cognitive and physical," says Furniss.

"It is worldwide. If you look, you will find a Scottish country dance group," says Furniss. "It's been fabulous, absolutely fabulous. We laugh, we learn things, it's been really, really great."

In the future, the group hopes to incorporate live music such as fiddlers who would be interested in having fun alongside the Scottish dancers. Furniss hopes that when the weather gets warmer, the group can start dancing in outdoor parks and put on performances for the public.

"We talked about Rotary Park in Haliburton," says Furniss. "Maybe other parks in Haliburton County. You get some fame, new members, notoriety, and exposure."

All are welcome to join the group, either solo or as a group.

All are welcome to join, even solo dancers. "It is etiquette to dance with somebody else. You do not need a partner. That's one of the great social things. There are many in the group that come on their own."

The group meets at the Fellowship Hall at the United Church in Haliburton on Wednesdays. The group has asked for people to arrive at 7:15 to have the dancing commence at 7:30. Soft soled indoor shoes are required. Currently, there is a small fee per dancing session but the group is looking to charge a yearly membership fee in the future.

"Just give it a try. It is fun and it is social. It is exercise, but you don't even realize it."

"It's all inclusive, it's a safe environment and it's fun."

First signs of spring

A display of crocuses reach for the sun. /KAREN LONDON Staff

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In Other Words

Columns and Letters to the Editor

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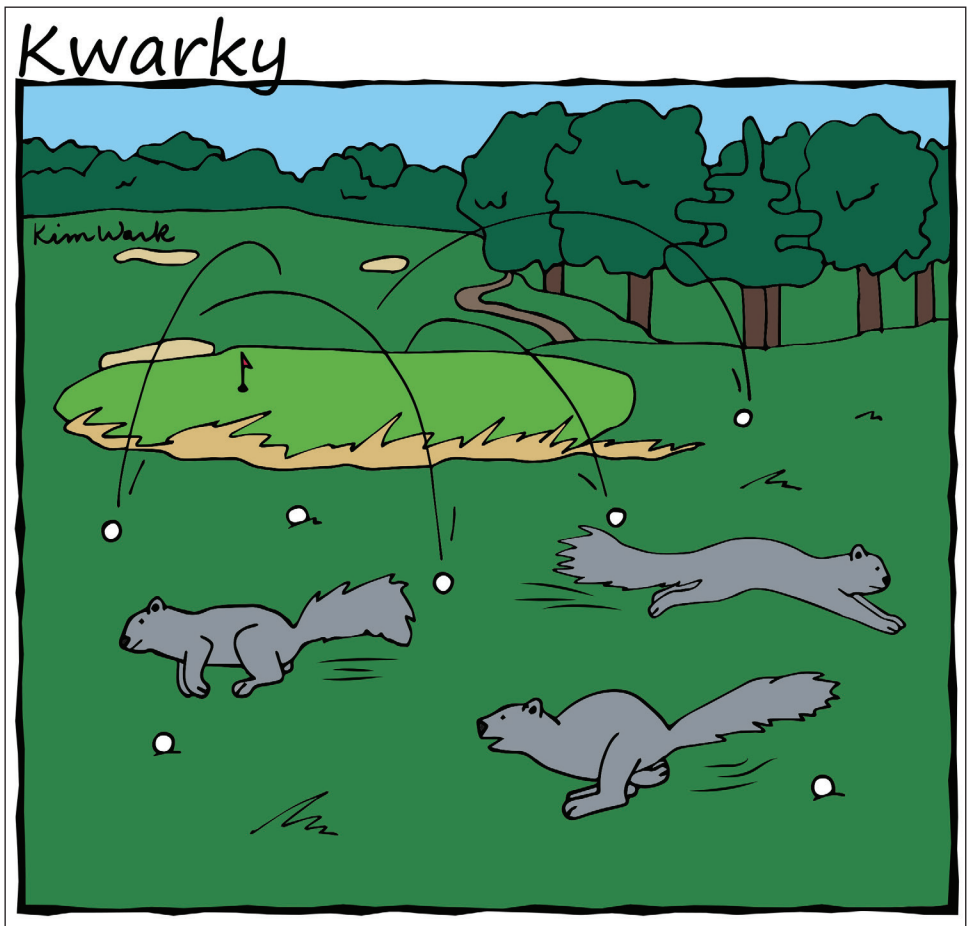


Eclipse, not apocalypse

ECLIPSE DAY has come and gone. I don't think I did any permanent damage to my retinas, despite my coworker Vivian's best effort of "Hey look!" while pointing at the sky.

Cold as steel the darkness waits says Iron Maiden.

Most of my friends and family from Minden left to experience the complete totality of the eclipse in places like the Niagara region and near Presqu'ile Provincial Park. .

My brother says that he could see a wall of inky shadow approaching him. He described it as a tangible darkness upon his skin. The air went cold, the birds stopped chirping, and an icy wind followed the wall of blackness.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

At Head Lake Park, something felt truly magical to the event. A brave few ventured from their homes to mingle in Head Lake Park and observe the eclipse. In total, there were seven people in the park. Vivian and I each brought our camera to take pictures of imaginary herds of people gathered. The only people we saw were some local kids, a couple enjoying pizza with a tripod ready, and someone doing Tai Chi.Was this a daily ritual or could it have been a special performance underneath the twilight of the eclipse? We may never know.

For those in the county that did not experience the eclipse, I would describe the experience as the unsettling feeling you get when the sky turns dark before a huge storm. However, with the eclipse, you are not met with the clap of thunder or drenched with rain. Using eclipse glasses that you are almost certain were not legit, you were able to bask in the glow of our eclipsing sun. It is a surreal feeling.

Afterwards, my social feeds were littered with blurry photos of eclipses, vague darkness, and people posing in their eclipse glasses.

There is something beautiful in knowing that millions of people across North America came together for only a few minutes yesterday to experience the total lunar eclipse. No political sides, no violence. Simply humans coming together to witness a rare celestial event.

While travelling to other places to experience totality was the experience of a lifetime, I have already been told horror stories of the traffic. After the eclipse, my best friend drove 5 hours of stop-and-go traffic. Through a combination of stopping and starting, his car overheated and ruined his transmission. My family drove to Lakefield to view the eclipse on the side of the road beside a farmer's field. After seeing the congestion of the 401, they decided to drive north through the back roads, finally getting home at 8 p.m..

For the rest of the night, my family played YouTube video after YouTube video showing celebrations of the eclipse from around the world. From Mexico, throughout the states, to across Ontario, everyone took in the beauty of the eclipse.

Despite the clouds, the beauty of the eclipse peeking through at Head Lake Park is something that I will remember for the rest of my life.

Wardrobe malfunctions

I THINK MOST people remember the famous Janet Jackson wardrobe malfunction – probably because all the entertainment news segments showed that strategically-blurred image to us hundreds of times. But only to ensure tragedies like this would never happen again.

You would think I would have learned from this.

But, on Sunday, when Jenn and I were hiking on a local trail, I experienced an embarrassing wardrobe malfunction of my own.

How bad was it? Well, not to be too dramatic, but had there been a camera crew following us, my left boot would have been quickly blurred out.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

We were two kilometres down the trail when I had my malfunction. In the interest of public awareness, permit me to describe it. Before I do so, however, I will also warn you that the following description is graphic and not suitable for youth under the age of 18 – or anyone else who considers themselves cool.

Here goes. Jenn and I were hiking down the trail, when, without warning, the outer sole of my footwear separated at the toes so that my boot kind of looked and acted like Pac-Man. Not a good look.

Talk about embarrassing.

It was so bad that it caused Jenn to uncharacteristically blurt out, "Oh my," before she continued drinking water casually from her stylish bottle.

Needless to say, I blushed.

But it also occurred to me that times like this show what an outdoorsmen or entertainer is made of. I mean, Janet Jackson, who many now consider the patron saint of wardrobe malfunctions, simply covered up and went on with the halftime show.

Which is why I endeavoured to do the same.

"I guess we need to turn around and head back to the car," Jenn said, while staring at the toe of my boot for an uncomfortably long period.

"My eyes are up here," I replied, as I pointed to them.

"Oh, yeah," she noted.

"I don't think this is going to provide a hindrance," I stated. "It's nothing more than a minor inconvenience."

And then, just to reinforce the concept that timing is everything, I tripped on the nearest tree root.

Within 30 minutes we were back at the car. But unfortunately, along the way we passed several families with young children, at least one of whom noted that I appeared to be carrying out a tree with my toes.

After that, I covered my boot with my ball cap, so as to appear inconspicuous.

I only mention this sordid incident because wardrobe malfunctions are a part of any outdoors enthusiast's history. They manifest themselves in many ways too.

This time of year, it is hiking boots that have given up the ghost. In a couple of weeks, there will be a host of anglers going home with soaked pants due to holes or failing seams in their waders. Or at least that is what they will blame it on.

After that it will be turkey hunters with camouflaged pants split at the seams by barbed wire fences. Or worse still, with camouflaged pants whose zippers fail after a visit to the facilities in the donut shop on the way home.

By the way, this is what stopped me from taking up mountain biking. Zippers are one thing. Cycling shorts? Well, that's a whole other ball game …

InOtherWords

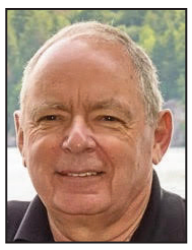
Columns and Letters to the Editor

Carbon tax and tribalism

OUR FEDERAL government is running out of lipstick to put on the pig it calls its carbon pricing policy. But as the famous proverb notes – when you put lipstick on a pig, it's still a pig.

The carbon policy itself probably is not a bad thing. Serious policies are needed to reduce pollution and global warming if we are to stop the world from burning up.

The real problem with the carbon tax is the federal government's failed attempts to communicate accurately what it's all about. While most Canadians believe global warming from pollution is serious, a majority do not believe the carbon tax is effective.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

Last week's increase in the carbon tax, plus some other taxes, have increased opposition to the carbon pricing policy. Many critics see it as just another tax grab to help pay for government spending gone crazy.

Now Ottawa has mounted a disastrous communications campaign telling Canadians they receive more money from its Canada Carbon Rebate (CCR) than they pay in carbon tax. Prime Minister Trudeau says that the difference between the tax and the rebate gives eight of 10 Canadians a net gain.

In other words, the carbon tax policy is making a majority of us richer.

This is absolute nonsense and another shocking example of the government twisting facts to recover lost popularity and votes. Polls indicate most citizens believe it is nonsense. One poll shows that only 14 of 100 citizens believe they get more money back in rebates than the carbon tax costs them.

A personal example: On April 1 the carbon tax increased the price of gasoline by 3.3 cents a liter. I drive a lot and calculate that increase will cost me an additional $1,000 to $1,500 this year. My wife and I will receive total carbon tax rebates of $840 this year.

So, the carbon tax increase will cost me hundreds of additional dollars just for gasoline. Then there's the increased cost of groceries, clothing and other goods transported by diesel truck. The carbon tax on diesel fuel increased by four cents a liter on April 1.

Yes, carbon emissions must be reduced. And, it takes money to do that. But there are other ways of paying for it.

The current federal government is one of the most spendthrift administrations in the country's history. Our federal debt is soaring. It has doubled from $619.3 billion in 2015-16, to $1.2 trillion in 2022-23. It's expected to climb to $1.4 trillion by 2028-29.

The Public Service Commission has reported that last year we were paying 274,219 federal employees – a 40.4-per-cent increase in employees since 2014. The parliamentary budget office reports that total compensation for these bureaucrats increased almost 37 per cent between 2015 and 2022.

Government workers in general already are compensated better than those in the private sector.

If Ottawa cut back some of this wild spending, the savings could easily pay for carbon tax policies without laying the cost directly on the backs of citizens already carrying an average debt load of $21,131, not including mortgages.

The Progressive Conservative opposition to the latest carbon tax increase is as ineffective as the government's poor communication to promote it.

The "axe the tax" and "spike the hike" campaigns are juvenile and totally unhelpful. This is silly sloganeering aimed at turning voters against the government and gaining votes in the next election. It does nothing to address our serious carbon issues.

What we need is a more respectful political culture in which opposing parties get together, accept the facts of greenhouse gas emissions and together find ways of reducing the problem and how to pay for it.

Political tribalism will not solve the problems of an increasingly carbonized world. We need people of all political stripes working together to find solutions and how best to pay for them.

Democracy in the United States has been destabilized by political tribalism. It is dividing American society and ruining the country.

Canada is following the same path. We can get off that path by working together as individuals dedicated to improving Canadian life, not just the health of a political party.

Minden Memories

A wedding portrait from the 1900s. /Photo courtesy of Minden Hills Cultural Centre

letters to the editor

Who signed off on fire ban?

To the Editor,

Minden Hills council was the first to pass this of all four councils. Were they not?

The municipalities agreed to this at a county level, also.

Reread your media release. You are promoting burning between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. So you want people burning in the middle of the night? Nice in theory but not in logic.

You were making revenue with the past burn permits. How is that money being replaced?

So burn for the least amount or payers, 24/7, up until March 31. You have had two fires in the last how many days? How many firefighters made these calls and did you have to call in mutual aid? The fire season should not have a beginning or end date but rather by the date. Did you see the fires people were burning this past weekend in Minden Hills to get rid of brush? That is because you changed the mentality.

You will have the most amount of ratepayers coming up for the summer and they are to burn 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Let that sink in with addictions or consumption of alcohol.

Absolutely there is more wild fires and environmental concerns but visibility is not good at night and you could have trip hazards. It gets dark at night remember? Or don't you and the mentality is it is under the homeowners insurance? Hose, shovel, rake, branches. All trip hazards. Some required for safety. Your neighbourhood is going to not like if you burning brush at 3 am and you can't open your windows. The municipality of Minden Hills was the first to vote for 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. burning.

Who signed off on that? Seriously? Who signed off on that?

Why not 7 to 11 a.m. and 7 to 11 p.m? That way there is still dew on the ground and not as intense heat. Wind is usually down. Less travel in the dark for our volunteer fire department or emergency vehicles. Put permits on for these times and if residents don't have a $20 burn permit each pumper costs $650 to come out. Permits for all residents who want to burn. They are purchased Jan. 1. Every single residence. They do this in our township and it is smaller than Minden Hills and we are surrounded by huge forests. Purchase online, in-house or by drop off with envelope.

Because right now when I read this you want people burning 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.. Think about that logically. Smoke coming in your windows on a warm summers night.

Burn away night burners … burn away!

Joy Webster
Minden

The Holy Trinity of womanhood

THE CHALLENGE for women is to balance being a mother, a wife and a person. Being any or all of not-a-mother, not-a-wife, not-a-person can be equally if differently challenging. The miracle is that we manage at all. Doing it well?? That's really amazing.

I think of the persona as being the body on which the clothing of other roles hangs. Sometimes a wifey blouse and motherly pants, and sensible shoes that help you putting one foot ahead of the other. I don't mean to sound like it's a slog, because sometimes those shoes bounce and dance like a child in spring. Nor is it necessarily uncoordinated – the parts can pair nicely, topped off, perhaps, with an attention-getting hat that says something important about the persona. But, as in life, what we wear – the role that leads is the strongest marker of who we are. It's what allows people to quickly and efficiently place us in their world.

FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

As the life cycle churns on and the intensity and immediacy of the wife and mother role abates, a woman is faced with the challenge of outing herself as who she really is. The clothing becomes increasingly sparse and the body emerges. Nakedness has always been a powerful state. It can bespeak ultimate vulnerability – a child entering the world clothed only in its mother's juices. It can be shared -- sparingly, cautiously, generously -- as in sex. It can be used powerfully for or against the person whose body it is – seduction on one hand, domination on the other.

No wonder the crone is such an ambivalent creature. From one perspective, she is the dry and wrinkled shadow of the beauty and vigor she once held. From another, she is fearsomely free, someone with no need to please or conform, with nothing to lose, no external handles that can be grasped to control her.

There are friendlier perspectives on the post-mother post-wife persona: the matriarch, the elder, the grandmother. They have a quieter power. They don't gather in darkened woods and stir a pot of trouble; they are valued for simply being. They bespeak continuity, rootedness, an integrated and holistic wisdom. They are not the guru at the top of an arduous climb but the person sitting contentedly beside the hearth, perhaps rocking, perhaps reading, perhaps knitting.

Around the time Betty Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963, it was 'discov ered' that women needed clothes other than mother and wife that expressed the inner self; it was more than symbolically a suit that garbed them to compete in the 'real' world, the business world, the world that was the purview of men. I entered adulthood in that era, the first wave of women who thought they didn't have to choose between having a domestic life and having a career. The idea of women contributing to family resources was not new – women had always augmented family income by adding value (cooking, sewing, cleaning) and had often brought in actual money by selling their skills or products outside the home – in the farm community where I was raised, women raised chickens and sold eggs. But the idea of women taking ownership of their contribution in the way that men always had was new. And controversial.

It is no longer debated that women should be in the labour force; in fact our economy at an individual and collective level is dependent on it. The controversy has gone underground. The patriarchy (using that word not as a statement on gender but as an omnibus for all things capitalist and materialist) has decided to let women figure out how to make their contribution while withholding the means to make it an even playing field. Women are now expected to wear a third suit of clothing, a blazer over the wifey blouse and mommy pants, preferably with stilettos to message sexuality, and quite possibly a mortarboard to signify intelligence.

Is the holy trinity of womanhood disintegrating with the addition of this further obligation? It's definitely under attack. Women are deciding against motherhood and wifedom in unprecedented numbers, covering a naked body with only a suit. It's very difficult for them to decide against careerdom unless they're independently wealthy, which is a suit of another cut.

Do the crones and the matriarchs have a role to play in bringing balance back into women's worlds? I think they do. The next wave of feminism? Maybe. It will need to be tsunami, a powerful and destructive wave originating in a tectonic shift in the skeleton of the world. Climate change may do that for us, may bring patriarchy and the rapaciousness it signifies to its knees, and expose the value of matriarchy, the pot-stirring crones and the quietly wise elders. It might degenderize how we divvy up the work of the world. I think that would be a wonderful thing. Then we could talk also about the holy trinity of manhood.

HCPL's Book of the Week

Salama Kassab was a pharmacy student when the cries for freedom broke out in Syria. She still had her parents and her big brother; she still had her home. She had a normal teenager's life.

Now Salama volunteers at a hospital, helping the wounded who flood through the doors daily. As Salama contends with bullets, bombs, and military assaults she secretly searches for a way out of her beloved country. Torn between her loyalty to her country and her conviction to survive, Salama must learn to see the events around her for what they truly are—not a war, but a revolution—and decide how she, too, will cry for Syria's freedom.

Recommended for ages 14 and up, As Long as the Lemon Tree Grows by Zoulfa Katouh is nominated for the 2024 White Pine Award™. Available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

School board seeks feedback about education plans

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Students and their parents or guardians will have a say in how the effectiveness of individual education plans is judged.

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) has launched a survey to better understand students' and their families' experiences with individual education plans (IEP).

Until April 12, two surveys will be conducted: one for parents/guardians, and one for students.

Parents/guardians of a student with an IEP will receive the survey via email and are encouraged to complete one survey per student online. Paper copies are available upon request by contacting the child's school.

Students in Grades 7 to 12 with an IEP will receive the survey via email and are encouraged to complete the survey by the closing date of April 12.

This survey is confidential and anonymous.

The Learning About the IEP Experience Survey supports the findings from the board's recent Special Education Review.

The review took place throughout the 2022-2023 school year and engaged students, families, administrators, community partners, and special education staff.

It was focused on helping the board align its actions with its intentions related to equity, inclusive practices, and high expectations.

"In TLDSB, we are committed to ensuring that high-quality programs and services are in place for all students with special education needs," said Wes Hahn, the board's director of education.

"The Learning About the IEP Experience Survey was developed as a way for TLDSB to gather input about the IEP process, to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students and their families."

Individual responses will be compiled and provided to SEAC and the board with no identifiable information.

Along with the Special Education Review and other resources, the data collected throughout the survey will help to inform priorities and next steps to ensure the system has the right programs and services in place to support students with special needs.

"The TLDSB SEAC completed a similar survey in 2018 and 2020," said Jennifer Johnston, the board's superintendent of learning responsible for Special Education Services.

"The results from past surveys assisted the committee with recommendations that have since been successfully implemented to enhance the student experience."

Ontario school boards are required to have a SEAC. The role of a SEAC is to make representation to the board in respect to any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional students of the board.

Churches give lent together

From left, Brian Parker, Minden Bible Church; Martha Waind, Deacon-St. Paul's Anglican Church; Fr. Ron Meyer, Our Lady of the Fatima Roman Catholic Church; Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, St. Paul's Anglican Church; and Rev. Max Ward, Highland Hills United Church. /Photo submitted

Gary Stoner, Chair of MCFC and Jean Munroe, Manager of MCFC accept the donations received from the last Lenten Lunch held at Highland Hills United Church (HHUC) on Wednesday March 20th, from Pat Thornett of Highland Hills United Church who is also the Secretary of MCFC.

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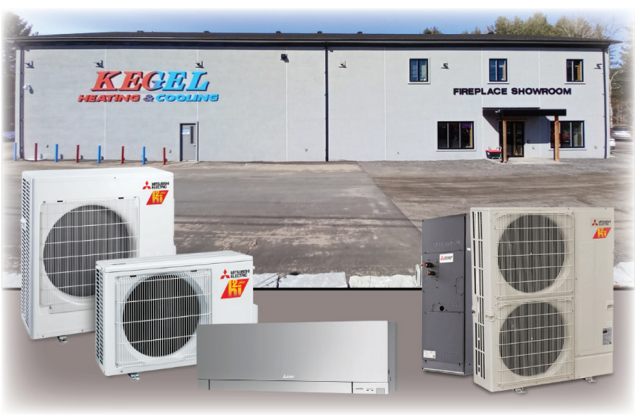

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AH sign deal for landfill battery collection

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Algonquin Highlands has a new service agreement for the recycling of batteries collected at waste disposal sites.

Melissa Murray, the municipality's environmental manager, presented to council during its April 4 meeting a battery supply agreement with Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd. (E360), for the collection of household batteries.

"We've been doing battery collection at our sites for recycling for many years," she said.

> We've been doing battery collection at our sites for recycling for many years
>
> — MELISSA MURRAY, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER FOR ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS

Algonquin Highlands has provided collection service since June 2011 for household batteries for recycling through an agreement with Raw Materials Company (RMC).

The battery supply agreement proposed by E360 provides for the transportation and processing of collected batteries and compensates the township for the collection of qualifying batteries.

In 2023, RMC was purchased by Environmental Solutions 360 Ltd. (E360).

Environmental Solutions 360 Ltd. is a registered battery hauler and processor with the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA).

Household batteries are collected at all township waste disposal sites.

The municipality has been able to divert as much as 15 tonnes of batteries from landfills each year since 2011.

In 2023, 1.425 tonnes of batteries (about 6 male polar bears) were collected and diverted from landfill.

Batteries are hazardous waste and contain heavy metals and other toxins that are extremely toxic to the environment. Leachate from batteries can contaminate water supplies and harm wildlife.

Diversion of batteries from landfills reduces environmental impacts and ensures batteries are safely managed. The recycling of batteries recovers valuable resources.

Batteries are up to 25 per cent steel, which is 100 per cent reusable. Plastic and paper recovered from recycling are used to generate energy which offsets about 80 per cent of the energy used by the recycling process.

Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd. offers handling, hauling and processing of batteries diverted from landfills. They ensure materials are handled safely and processed responsibly.

Preserving our treasures

From left, Robert Wong, cultural program coordinator for the Township of Minden Hills, and David Rea, president of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation. The two paintings, *Untitled* and *Fireside* underwent cleaning and convservation work by Basia Baklinski of The Conservation Clinic. *Fireside* was painted at Bob Kirkwood's home, located on Bobcaygeon Road downtown Minden as told by Shirley Brandon (at age 17) who is one of the people in the painting. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

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Highland Storm Cheryl Smith Remax rack up wins

Cheryl Smith's U13 LL Highland Storm team travelled to Caledon for a fun filled year end tournament. Storms first game was against Halton Hills where we took the win 5-2. Saturday mornings game was against the Applewood Coyotes which Storm dominated winning 9-1. That afternoon Storm qualified for semi finals on Sunday with an 11-1 win against the Caledon Hawks with a memorable smooth Michigan being delivered by our own Bently Bull. Early Sunday morning Storm took on the Durham Crusaders Blue team in a close game pulling off a 4-2 win putting them in the Championship game. Storms 5th and final game was against the Durham Crusaders green team. All Storm players brought their A game and beat Durham in a close game winning Gold 1-0. Players included 87 Bently Bull (F)(11pts), 71 Benton Lloyd (D)(7pts), 17 Hunter Hamilton (D)(6pts), 55 Nash Wilson (F)(6pts), 68 Mackay Windover (F)(5pts), 88 Kelson Bagshaw (F)(5pts), 44 Moss Davis (F)(3pts), 50 Connor Iles (D)(3pts), 77 James Gooley (F)(1pt), 39 Travis Mann (F)(1pt), 5 Huxlee Campbell (D)(1pt), 74 Goalie Carter Shaw. /Photo submitted

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Community Yard Sale Registration

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Where: 20 George Street, Haliburton
Spaces are now available to rent, Hosted by North Entrance Masonic Lodge. Rent a space, bring your table, and sell your stuff! Rentals begin at $15. Spots are limited. For more info or to book your spot contact Rob Parish at 705-935-1921 or robparish707@yahoo.ca

CARP Fraud Seminar

When: April 17, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George Street
Please join us for a fraud seminar, being hosted by CARP Chapter 54, featuring OPP Officer Hilary Newman. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about common scams, how to recognize them and steps to take if you've fallen victim to fraud. This seminar will be an informative event empowering the community against scams. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

Stanhope and Community Fly-In to Spring

When: May 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: 1168 Stanhope Airport Rd, Algonquin Highlands
Bring the entire family to the 2024 Fly-In to Spring event! See antique and classic aircraft, enjoy a variety of food and drinks, and see model aeroplanes, firetrucks and MNR displays. Aeroplane and helicopter rides available. For more information contact Steve Dewey at sdewey@algonquinhighlands.ca

Youth Garden Club

When: May 7, 6 to 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Center, 55 Parkside St.
Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society for the next meeting of the Youth Garden Club. The club is for children in Grade 2 or higher that want to explore their interest in all things that grow. The May meeting will be getting the Cultural Pollinator garden ready to host the new pollinator plants.

Horticultural Society Meeting

When: May 7, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Center, 55 Parkside St.
The next Minden and District Horticultural meeting will take place Tuesday May 7. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. The speaker Liz Case will be discussing 'Growing your own vegetables from seeds'.

Spring Wildflowers and Wild Leeks

When: May 11, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Where: Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, 1118 Gould Crossing Rd.
Early spring plants are a beautiful and welcome sign that the seasons are changing! Join Belinda Gallagher and Michele Swyer to explore the woods and fields of Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. We'll hike approximately 2-3km of trails, learn about the sustainable harvesting of leeks, and observe many spring wildflowers. Admission by donation. Registration required at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca or call 705-457-3700.

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ARC receive funds from 100 Women Who Care

The Haliburton chapter of the 100 Women Who Care met at Castle Antiques on March 20th to hear very moving presentations by 3 charities. In a close race, Abbey Retreat Centre was chosen to receive the funds. On Wed Margaret Cox and Pat Bradley met with Lynda Shepard, Barb Morrison and Thea Patterson to present them with $8,000. This is WWC Halibirton's largest donation yet and they are still welcoming new members. For more information about 100 Women Who Care Haliburton please go to https://100wwchaliburton.wixsite.com/mysite

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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15

Outside work at Dorset Rec Centre to begin soon

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The walls of both floors have been painted at the Dorset Recreation Centre.

Algonquin Highlands council heard last month that crews were hoping to begin work on the building's outside as soon as possible after winter passes.

Adam Thorn, the township's public works general manager, told council when it met April 4 that paint is drying on pretty much all the walls on both floors at the facility.

"Tell us how things are going at the Dorset Rec Centre," Mayor Liz Danielsen said.

"As always, they are going great," Thorn said.

The facility was closed in 2022 and remediation work began to address mould and moisture issues inside the structure. Mould was removed from the centre's upstairs in October and there's been improvements to washroom accessibility at the facility.

"They are starting on the big cleanup of the construction material that's just left over from the project," Thorn said. "They're starting a big cleanup on the rooms."

He said some plumbing work is being carried out. Faucets and toilets that were removed are being installed.

It's hoped the excavation outside of the building will begin in the coming weeks.

A site meeting took place in the last week with contractors gearing up to do the exterior work.

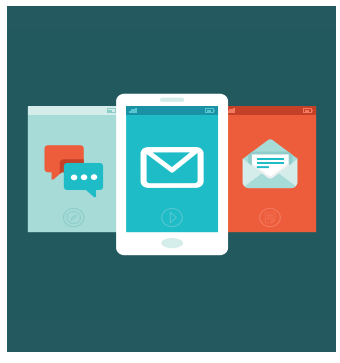
"As soon as the snow melts off and within the next week or two, they'll be getting started on the exterior foundation for the new walkway ramp and the new outdoor space that we had looked at," Thorn said.

"So far things are going really well. I'm glad that every time I get to come up here and say that, it's actually happening."

The building's security system has also been updated.

"Everything is still moving forward with no large setbacks," Thorn said.

"It's really great to hear that we may be able to move forward with the outside work a little sooner than anticipated," Danielsen said.



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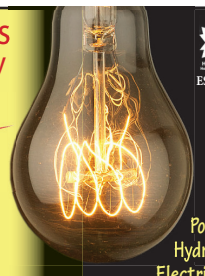

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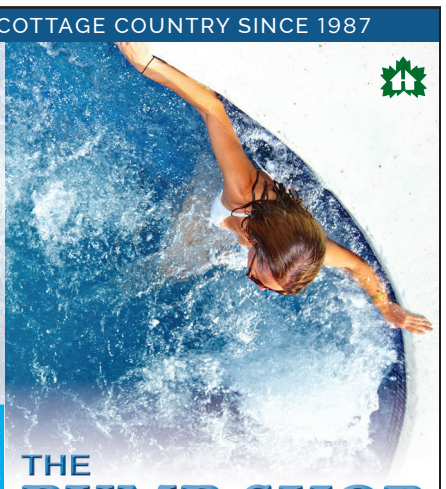

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Bookapalooza is back

Bookapalooza, a program of the Haliburton Arts Council, supports the cultural life of the county by bringing readers and authors together.

Call for exhibitors

This year's event will take place Saturday, July 13. The exhibitor's hall opens at noon in the Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St. Local authors or other exhibitors who would like to take part should email bookapalooza.hh@gmail.com.

Mystery guest

A thrilling part of this year's program is the inclusion of one of Canada's best-loved, bestselling authors for a conversation and book signing at The Big Book Club, 3 to 4:30pm – but his or her identity is still secret. You're invited to guess the name of the famous author by following clues announced on Canoe-FM and posted on facebook.com/BookapaloozaHaliburtonHighlands.

Winners drawn from among the correct guesses will win a pair of tickets to the Big Book Club or a copy of the author's latest bestseller.

Here's the first clue:

It's a mystery! Follow the clues and mark your calendars for July 13, this year's guest author is sure to take your breath away. Trust your eyes as clues are revealed each week. The final assignment will be shared on April 22 and winners drawn from all the correct answers submitted by midnight April 30. Think you know who it is? Send your guess to bookapalooza.hh@gmail.com.

The author will also take part in a reception and dinner at the Dominion Hotel, 6pm, for those who would like an opportunity to gather in a more intimate setting.

Tickets for both elements of the program go on sale May 1, after the reveal of the Mystery Guest author.

The program is generously sponsored by Parker Pad and Printing and the dinner is sponsored by the Dominion Hotel. More details about the event are available on the Arts Council website at haliburtonarts.on.ca.

Submitted

Spring harmony in the Highlands

Churches have ideal acoustics and are great venues for live music. Churches often host concerts presented by organizations such as the Highlands Opera Studio, Haliburton County Folk Society, choir groups, the churches themselves, and others. There have been memorable concerts in the Maple Lake United Church, Lakeside Baptist, St George's and Irondale churches. The Highland Hills United Church in Minden is no exception. The Folk Society has presented many concerts there over the years. The wonderful sound qualities, wood and stained-glass beauty, the spirit of place, and soft seats make it the perfect venue.

It is with much anticipation that this church will be full of harmonies on April 20 with the performance of Leverage for Mountains, a trio from Gatineau, Quebec with special guests, The Salt Cellars. Doors open at 7:00 pm for 7:30 start. Tickets are $40, $35 for Folk Society members and students, $45 at the door. Children and youth 18 & under are free. Children 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets must be obtained online to reserve a ticket for children and youth. Tickets are available at www.haliburtonfolk.com

Leverage For Mountains is Nick Loyer, Jay Trépanier and Jay Flynn. Based in Gatineau, the indie/folk trio is quickly gaining popularity with their rich acoustic sound and powerful vocal harmonies. Here is what Elly Tose of the Sleeping Giant Folk Music Society had to say "Leverage for Mountains were a delight to host as part of our concert series. Finely crafted three-part harmony, seamlessly blended with instrumental skills, superb songwriting, and witty banter, had our audience laughing one minute and wiping away tears the next. If you're looking for an experience that will have you smiling for days afterwards, don't miss seeing this trio. Their music can absolutely leverage mountains!"

Just before the pandemic, Don Bird, former Artistic Director of the Summerfolk Music and Dance Festival (Owen Sound, ON) claimed "These guys stunned the Folk Music Ontario conference. A 'must-see' Gatineau band that should be at every festival next year". Several members of the Haliburton County Folk Society attended that conference and wholeheartedly agree with Don Bird. Artistic Director, Sue Shikaze, has worked hard to get them to come to the Highlands

The Salt Cellars are an independent duo hailing from the south side of Algonquin Park. They are a product of their many influences and blend the sounds of Folk, Americana, Blues, Jazz and Pop to create a sound that is uniquely their own. People love their tight harmonies, writing styles, skilled musicianship and energy.

On April 20th there will be a very happy audience enjoying the striking harmonies of the performers and the beauty, sweet ambience and soul (and soft seats) of the Highland Hills United Church.

Tickets are available at www.haliburtonfolk.com

This show is presented by the Haliburton County Folk Society, a part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative. For more information about the Coop see www.haliburtoncooperative.on.ca

Leverage for Mountains is comprised of Nick Loyer, Jay Flynn, and Jay Trépanier, from Gatineau, Quebec. Their April 20th performance with special guest The Salt Cellars opens at 7:00 p.m. for a 7:30 start. /Photo submitted

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3	7	6	9	1	2	4	8	5
8	1	9	5	4	7	3	6	2
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9	4	5	8	2	1	6	7	3
6	3	1	7	9	4	5	2	8
7	2	8	3	5	6	9	1	4

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION
OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Subsection 17 (34) of the Planning Act

County File No.: **4616-OPA-017**
Subject Lands: **the geographic Township of Minden Hills in its entirety**
Address: **n/a**
Municipality: **Township of Minden Hills**
Applicant: **Township of Minden Hills**

TAKE NOTICE: A complete application has been received by the County of Haliburton Planning Department to amend the Official Plan of the Township of Minden Hills. The application has been deemed a "Complete Application" on April 5, 2024.

This proposal will be posted for a 30-day public review and comment period starting **April 8, 2024**, and commencing until **May 8, 2024**. If you have any questions, or would like to submit your comments in writing, please do so by **May 8, 2024** to the County's Planning Department.

All comments received prior to **May 8, 2024** will be considered as part of the decision-making process by the County of Haliburton if they are submitted in writing or electronically and reference County File No. **4616-OPA-017**.

Please Note: All comments and submissions received will become part of the public record. You will not receive a formal response to your comment, however, comments received as part of the public participation process for this proposal will be considered by the approval authority for this proposal.

THE PURPOSE: The purpose and effect of the proposed amendment is to update the policies relating to additional dwelling units to strengthen the policy in response to recent changes to the Planning Act, which are designed to provide a range and mix of housing options and densities. The amendment will also add new policy with respect to development proposals within 1000 metres of a settlement area boundary.

STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING: A statutory Public Meeting was held by the municipality on July 27, 2023 at the Council Chambers of the Township of Minden Hills.

THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT: The Council of the Township of Minden Hills adopted the proposed Local Official Plan Amendment on February 8, 2024 by By-Law No. 24-017.

OTHER RELATED APPLICATIONS: There are no related applications.

REQUESTING NOTICE OF DECISION: If you wish to be notified of the decision of County Council in respect of the proposed local official plan amendment, you must make a written request to the Senior Planner, County of Haliburton.

Only individuals, corporations or public bodies may appeal a decision of the approval authority to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the plan was adopted, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

GETTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information regarding the application is available for public inspection at the County of Haliburton Administrative Office during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dated at the Township of Minden Hills this 8th day of April 2024.

Adam Kozlowski, Senior Planner
County of Haliburton
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario, K0M 2K0

Telephone: (705) 286-1333 ext. 248
or 1-866-886-8815
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Minden Times

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Qualifications
Bachelor/Master of Social Work, Psychology, or related degree, or an equivalent combination of work experience and education. Current Certificate of Registration with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW) or current registration with The College of Psychotherapy. Minimum 2 years' experience working in a related position preferred, ideally in a community-based setting. Experience working with black youth and people of color, First Nations, Métis and Inuit and LGBTQ+ peoples are an asset. Willingness and ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends.

We recognize that equitable access to employment is an agent in social change. We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders, and sexual orientation.

Salary $58,000- $62,000, dependent on qualifications and experience.

Please visit www.pointintime.ca for more details and send resume by April 15, 2024 to:
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Or mail to:
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are currently seeking an experienced Executive Director to work with our Board of Directors to provide leadership to the Abbey Gardens staff team. Responsibilities include: financial management, planning and development, nurturing community partnerships, human resources, marketing and communications, and oversee strategic growth.

For full job description please go to abbeygardens.ca/get-involved/#jobs

Applications can be submitted via email to bolin.barb@gmail.com. Deadline for applications is April 19. Interviews will be done on a rolling basis so please apply early. Please include ED Job in the subject line.

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Two positions available for Housekeeping and Laundry.

Responsibilities include: cleaning of all buildings, accommodations, washrooms, shower facilities and common areas throughout the camp, including the turnover of living space throughout camp and overall upkeep of camp facilities. Cleaning and light maintenance duties include, but not limited to sweeping, mopping, cleaning, painting and replenishing supplies needed for showers and washrooms.

Expected Start date: April 1, 2024

Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment. Salary Range: Both Housekeeping/Laundry and Maintenance/Grounds keeping: $17.50 - $19.50 per hour based on experience. **Submit resume by email to Jay@camptimberlane.ca**

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Thank You

The family of **Douglas McElwain** would like to thank everyone who attended his funeral service and sent flowers, messages, cards, and to Pastor Wayne Rutter for his service.

Love and miss you,
Darlene, Nancy, Janet and Family

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Jean Kernohan

Passed away peacefully at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Saturday, April 6, 2024, in her 80th year.

Beloved daughter of the late Roy Alexander Kernohan (1995) and Elizabeth Ethel Ferguson (2000) and sister of the late Glenn Alexander Kernohan (2021). Jean is lovingly remembered by the Stamp Family and by good friends Irma Walker and Carol Hill.

Jean was a farmer her whole life.

A Graveside Interment Service will be held at the Minden Cemetery on Friday, May 10th, 2024 at 1:00 pm.

Memorial Donations to the Snowflake Meadows Rescue (cheques only) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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Cooking up a storm

Highly qualified assistant Mary Wilson blends up a wonderful high-spirited concoction as Shirley Colliss provides muddled instructions. The galloping gourmets cooked up some laughter for the women who took part in the Sweep Into Spring curling bonspiel at the Minden Curling Club on April 1. Acting out hilarious skits has become a tradition at this, the final bonspiel of the year.

Council tries to settle roads dispute

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

Anson, Hindon and Minden Townships Council is making another attempt to resolve the controversy surrounding the road into the Highland Gate Estates subdivision.

At a special meeting on Thursday, council met with representatives of the subdivision and the Ministry of Transportation to explore what options are available to settle the dispute.

Residents of the subdivision believe the municipality should be responsible for the upgrading and maintenance of the roads. The council that was in place prior to the November elections took the opposite stand, saying that it is the developer's responsibility to first bring the road up to Ministry of Transportation standards. Both parties' claims are substantiated by contradicting bylaws that were approved by previous councils.

Last Thursday's meeting was the first opportunity for the residents to discuss this issue with the newly-elected council and representatives of the ministry.

The committee representing Highland Gate had requested the meeting to get a clear indication of the status of the subdivision and to get input from the transportation ministry.

Highland Gate resident Doug Campbell told the meeting that the subdivision residents weren't asking for anything except that the municipality honour the 1982 bylaw which says the township will pave the road.

He said the bylaw acknowledges that the developer had fulfilled his end of the agreement and that the township would assume the road and cover it with hard top. Campbell said the term hard top referred to hot-mix asphalt. "We're not asking for storm sewers or curbs," he said. "We are just interested in the road."

During the course of the meeting it became apparent that there was some confusion about what the minimum standard of the road would have to be to receive ministry approval.

Ministry spokesman Andy Mintz told the meeting that

(more on page 14)

Ministry stamp is final hurdle

Barb Dawson urges public to write minister, premier

Only one hurdle remains to be cleared before the plans for the expansion of the Haliburton Hospital can go to tenders.

That hurdle is the Ministry of Health's stamp of approval and, unfortunately, it is feared that this will be the most difficult obstacle of all in the community's bid for the added hospital beds.

Tender-ready drawings of the 18-bed chronic-care expansion were sent to the ministry on March 31, Barb Dawson told The Times last week. Now it's all up to the ministry, said the second vice chairman of the St. Joseph's Hospital Board.

Completion of the plans was the final detail that could be accomplished by the architects before this project could go to tenders. The hospital board is now awaiting ministry approval of the plans.

Dawson, who is the chairman of the board's property committee, says her fingers are crossed in hopes of speedy approval. However, she senses it may be a long wait. She says she spoke with Health Minister Elinor Caplan in early March and was told that a speedy approval of the plans was not likely to be in the cards. The ministry is moving very slowly on poro-jects throughout the province, she said and Haliburton is unlikely to be an exception.

After a surprisingly successful local fundraising

(more on page 3)

Fire cutbacks concern municipalities

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

A supervisor from the Ministry of Natural Resources Fire Operations Centre in Haliburton says he sympathizes with municipalities' concerns about the recent cut-backs in the ministry's fire crews.

Fire Operations Manager Tom Russell attended last week's meeting of Monmouth Township Council to try and answer councillors' questions and respond to concerns. Many municipalities are upset at the recent announcement that local fire departments may be required to take a more active role in fighting forest fires this summer.

Russell told council that a great deal of the concern seems to revolve around the agreements between the ministry and the municipalities regarding who is responsible for fighting forest and bush fires. The agreements, dating back to the 1950's, state that municipalities are responsible for fighting fires within their boundaries. The ministry reimburses the townships for half the cost of fighting forest and bush fires on private land and 100 per cent of the cost of fighting fires on Crown land.

There has been no change in the original agreements, according to Russell, and the ministry fire crews will provide back-up if the municipal fire departments need help.

Russell said the municipalites have the right to cancel the agreements but would then be liable for the full cost of fighting the fires. The ministry has an agreement with every municipality in the Minden District.

If there are not a great number of fires this summer, Russell said it's possible municipalities won't notice the difference between this and previous years. But due to drastic cut-backs in the number of ministry fire fighting personnel in the district, local fire departments may find themselves playing a more active role.

The Haliburton Fire Centre has been dealt a 40 per cent reduction in fire fighters and the region has suffered a 46 per cent decrease. Russell said he will only have nine men instead of the usual 15 and only six men on duty at any given time instead of 10.

In past years the ministry crews have kept a watch on fire locations for several days after the fire has been extinguished to ensure that the blaze is not restarted by smoldering hot spots. This year Russell says he may not have enough people to do

(more on page 22)

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